Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1988.

The question was proposed.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, as such I have to objection to the withdrawal of the Bill, but there is an apprehension and there are some suggestions which I want to submit before the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: He wants to bring another Bill.

SHRI JIBON ROY: I have no objection to that also. But there should be a purpose; it should not be merely some cosmetic touch. Probably more than five million construction workers arc involved. It is the most traditional and the oldest industry in our country in which the largest number of workers arc involved—and their condition is very serious. They require legislative support in three areas.

One area is regulation of welfare measures and service conditions. The second area is wages. The third area is regulation of employment. Now, since you have mentioned the name of hon. Mr. Justice Krishna Iyer, Mr. Justice Krishna Iyer raised an objection to 1988 Bill raising all these points. 1 am apprehensive whether the new Bill will take care of all these aspects. I understand that you are thinking of some welfare measures. But what about the question of wages and the question of regulation of employment also, which is the most important thing, because a construction worker's life is the most uncertain life though he is in the largest industry? The construction workers were demanding that the kind of a Labour Board as exists in the shipping industry be formed for them also at the national level, State level and district level. In many places there is also some system which is working for the regulation of employment. So, to assist them and to sec that there employment is ensured, at least on rota-ion it should be there just as the Shipping Board is there. That is why my submission to you is, while introducing this Bill, you please take care of all these aspects and not the elections alone. That is my submission. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Minister, do you want to react?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Sir, if there is any new, practical suggestion coming from the hon. member, I will agree to it here itself. You please suggest something. But you don't have any practical suggestion for the construction workers. Sir, I want to satisfy the hon. Member. You please see the new Bill, and if there is anything wrong in it, at that time you please speak. Then we will consider it.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Thank you

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The question is:

> "That leave be granted to withdraw the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1988".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Sir, 1 withdraw the Bill.

STATEMENT REGARDING ORDINANCE

CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATING PROCLAMATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(AMENDMENT! ORDINANCE, 1995

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) explaining the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995.

THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Sir, I

beg So move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act. 1947.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Sir, Introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now let us take to the Bill for consideration and passing the Technology Development Board Bill, 1995. Shri Debiprosad Pal.

I. THE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOP MENT BOARD BILL, 1995

II. THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): Sir, I move the Technology Development Board Bill, 1995 and the Research and Development Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You move one by one. The discussions can be taken up together.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Very well. The Bills are complementary.

Sir, I move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Board for payment of equity capital or any other financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies attempting development and commercial application of indigenous technology or adapting imported technology to wider domestic applications and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I also move:

> "That the Bill to amend the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Hon'ble Members might recall that during the President's address to Parliament on the eve of the Budget Session 1994, the Hon'ble President had underlined the need for tapping our own talents in the area of technology. The pace of technological changes, the need to shift to technologies which are environmental friendly and the restrictions being placed on transfer of technology, require India to rely more on domestic talents. With the increasing pace of liberalisation of the Indian economy, research, design and development of application oriented technology, appropriate to our needs is vital to improve our industrial productivity and Global competitiveness.

In pursuance of the above policy directions, the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget of the Central Government for the year 1994-95 had announced the setting up of a New Fund for Technology Development and Application, to be placed at the disposal of Department of Science and Technology to help the indegenously developed technologies reach the stage of commercial application to make science and technology effective instrument of national renewal and accelerate the development and application of indigenous technology to production processes.

To augment the New Fund, it is proposed to divert the proceeds collected by way of 5% Cess on import of technology which was earlier being utilised to provide financial support to the Venture Capital Fund administered by the IDBI.

To facilitate such transfer of funds to the Fund for Technology Development and Application it is proposed to amend the Research and Development Cess Act of 1986. The R&D Cess Act which was passed in 1986 provides for a levy of 5%